



Frequently Asked Questions about Year 2000

What is the Year 2000 Problem?

The Year 2000 (Y2K) problem stems from a cost-saving measure taken more than 30 years ago to save data storage space. During this time, years such as 1999 were coded as 99. The Year 2000 presents a problem with this coding method because 2000 will be interpreted as 00. If a program using this coding method includes date-sensitive calculations, the distinction between 1900 and 2000 will not be made and could result in data miscalculations.

What is the State doing to prepare for Y2K?

The State has been working for some time to make the modifications necessary to ensure its mission critical computer systems are Y2K ready. It has done a significant amount of assessment, planning, and remediation, and it is confident that Californians will see minimal interruptions in service on January 1, 2000. In addition, the State has worked with local governments and private sector service providers to coordinate Y2K activities as necessary. The State has also undertaken a variety of communications and outreach activities to inform Californians of the Y2K issue and to help them understand how to prepare for the millennium change.

Is the State of California ready for Y2K?

The State of California is on track to have all of its mission critical systems Y2K compliant and operational on January 1, 2000. For more information on the State's current readiness status, please refer to the California Y2K Process and Status page of the State's Year Y2K website located at: www.year2000.ca.gov.

Will my electricity fail on January 1, 2000?

It is not expected that there will be widespread failures of electricity on January 1. In fact, the electrical power industry has completed most of its Y2K remediation work and is confident that the supply of electricity on New Year's day will be just like any other New Year's day. For more information, contact your local electricity provider or the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) at <http://www.nerc.com/~y2k/y2k.html>

Will my bank be impacted?

Banks are not expected to have Y2K related problems. As of June 30, 1999, 99 percent of financial institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) were rated "satisfactory" in terms of Y2K readiness. For more information, contact your own banking institution, or a leading banking institution in your area.

Will the Y2K issue affect household appliances?

Most consumer electronics products will not encounter problems with the Year 2000 date change because many consumer products operate on a time-basis rather than date basis. Only those products using calendar year data may be affected (e.g., VCRs, TV/VCR combinations, camcorders, fax machines, personal computers, and home automation and security products). Should you have questions about your consumer products, contact the product's manufacturer or visit the federal government's Y2K Consumer Information Product Safety web site at: <http://www.consumer.gov/y2k/product.htm>



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Will the Y2K issue affect elevators?

Many elevator manufacturers have said that elevators will not experience problems related to the Year 2000 date change. However, elevators tied into larger building-control systems could be affected if such systems are not Y2K compliant. For more information about an elevator in a specific building, contact the building manager.

Should I be concerned about flying after Y2K?

The FAA reports that it is 100 percent Y2K compliant and airplane manufacturers have not found any problems that would present a safety risk to passengers. For more information about the aviation industry's Y2K readiness, please visit the federal government's Y2K aviation and travel safety site at: <http://www.consumer.gov/y2k/transport.htm>

What do I need to do to prepare for Y2K?

The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) has prepared an individual preparedness guide entitled "Y2K What2Do" that provides suggested preparations related to water, food, cooking, health, banking, communications, transportation, and other facets of our daily lives. In general, you should prepare for Y2K in the same manner that you would prepare for any other potential emergency. Above all, do not panic! Begin now to work with your family, friends, neighbors and others to prepare for Y2K. The document may be found at the OES website: <http://www.oes.ca.gov>.

Where can I get more information?

The California Y2K website and the OES website are the official sources of comprehensive information about California's Y2K activities. These sites include information about the State's readiness status, what the public should do to prepare, available resources for local governments, and information about numerous other Y2K resources. Please refer to the State's official website of state entity status information at <http://www.year2000.ca.gov>.

Please e-mail any questions regarding Y2K to the Department of Information Technology Y2K Program Management Office at http://www.project.office@emc.ca.gov.

